

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

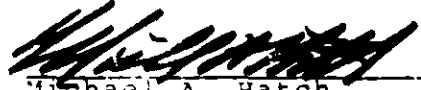
Bulletin 88-3
Issued this 25th day
of May, 1988

NOTICE TO ALL MINNESOTA AUTOMOBILE INSURERS

In 1987 Minnesota enacted legislation requiring automobile insurance policies to provide coverage for rented motor vehicles. During the 1988 legislative session flaws in the original legislation were corrected.

The changes enacted this year will be effective as of August 1, 1988 for all policies in force on that date or issued thereafter. Please note that this means that you must provide the coverage as of August 1. You cannot wait until the policy's renewal date.

A copy of the pertinent sections, as amended, is attached for your reference.


Michael A. Hatch
Commissioner of Commerce

Minnesota Statutes, section 60A.08, subdivision 13.

Subd. 13. [EXCLUSIONS.] All liability policies must provide coverage for rented vehicles as required in chapter 65B.

This subdivision does not apply to liability policies that the commissioner has exempted by order.

This coverage can be excess over any and all specific motor vehicle coverage that is applicable.

Subdivision 1. [DEFINITION.] (a) "Auto rental company" means a corporation, partnership, individual, or other person that is engaged primarily in the renting of motor vehicles at per diem rates.

(b) "Rental vehicle personal accident insurance" means accident only insurance providing accidental death benefits, dismemberment benefits and/or reimbursement for medical expenses which is issued by an insurer authorized in this state to issue accident and health insurance. These coverages are nonqualified plans under chapter 62E.

Subd. 2. [SALE BY AUTO RENTAL COMPANIES.] An auto rental company that offers or sells rental vehicle personal accident insurance in this state in conjunction with the rental of a vehicle shall only sell these products if the forms and rates have met the relevant requirements of section 62A.02, taking into account the possible infrequency and severity of loss that may be incurred. Sections 60A.17 and 60A.1701 do not apply if the persons engaged in the sale of these products are employees of the auto rental company who do not receive commissions or other remuneration for selling the product in addition to their regular compensation. Compensation may not be determined in any part by the sale of insurance products. The auto rental company before engaging in the sale of the product must file with the commissioner the following documents:

(1) an appointment of the commissioner as agent for service of process;

(2) an agreement that the auto rental company assumes all responsibility for the authorized actions of all unlicensed employees who sell the insurance product on its behalf in conjunction with the rental of its vehicles;

(3) an agreement that the auto rental company with respect to itself and its employees will be subject to this chapter regarding the marketing of the insurance products and the conduct of those persons involved in the sale of insurance products in the same manner as if it were a licensed agent.

An auto rental company failing to file the documents in clauses (1) to (3) is guilty of an individual violation as to the unlicensed sale of insurance for each sale that occurs after June 2, 1987, until they make the required filings. Each individual sale after June 2, 1987, and prior to the filing required by this section is subject to, in addition to any other penalties allowable by law, up to a \$100 per violation fine. Further, the sale of the insurance product by an auto rental company or any employee or agent of the company after June 2,

1987, without having complied with this section shall be deemed to be in acceptance of the provisions of this section.

Insurance sold pursuant to this subdivision must be limited in availability to rental vehicle customers though coverage may extend to the customer, other drivers, and passengers using or riding in the rented vehicles; and limited in duration to a period equal to and concurrent with that of the vehicle rental.

Persons purchasing rental vehicle personal accident insurance may be provided a certificate summarizing the policy provisions in lieu of a copy of the policy if a copy of the policy is available for inspection at the place of sale and a free copy of the policy may be obtained from the auto rental company's home office.

The commissicner may, after a hearing, revoke an auto rental company's right to operate under this section if the company has repeatedly violated the insurance laws of this state and the revocation is in the public interest.

Subd. 3. [COLLISION DAMAGE WAIVER.] A "collision damage waiver" is a discharge of the responsibility of the renter or leasee to return the motor vehicle in the same condition as when it was first rented. The waiver is a full and complete discharge of the responsibility to return the vehicle in the same condition as when it was first rented. The waiver may not contain any exclusions except those approved by the commissioner pursuant to the requirements contained in section 61A.02, subdivisions 2 to 5.

Minnesota Statutes, section 65B.49, subdivision 5a.

Subd. 5a. [RENTAL VEHICLES.] (a) Every plan of reparation security insuring a natural person as named insured, covering private passenger vehicles as defined under section 65B.001, subdivision 3, must provide that all of the obligation for damage and loss of use to a rented vehicle would be covered by the property damage liability portion of the plan. The obligation of the plan must not be contingent on fault or negligence. In all cases where the plan's property damage liability coverage is less than \$25,000, the coverage available under the subdivision must be \$25,000. Other than as described in this paragraph, nothing in this section amends or alters the provisions of the plan of reparation security as to primacy of the coverages in section 65B.49.

(b) A vehicle is rented for purposes of this subdivision if the rate for the use of the vehicle is determined on a weekly or daily basis. A vehicle is not rented for purposes of this subdivision if the rate for the vehicle's use is determined on a monthly or longer period.

(c) The policy or certificate issued by the plan must inform the insured of the application of the plan to rental vehicles and that the insured may not need to purchase additional coverage from the rental company.

(d) Where an insured has two or more vehicles covered by a plan or plans of reparation security containing the rented motor vehicle coverage required under paragraph (a), the insured may select the plan the insured wishes to collect from and that plan is entitled to a pro rata contribution from the other plan or plans based upon the property damage limits of liability. If the person renting the motor vehicle is also covered by the person's employer's insurance policy or the employer's automobile self-insurance plan, the reparation obligor under the employer's policy or self-insurance plan has primary responsibility to pay claims arising from use of the rented vehicle.

(e) A notice advising the insured of rental vehicle coverage must be given by the reparation obligor to each current insured with the first renewal notice after January 1, 1989. The notice must be approved by the commissioner of commerce. The commissioner may specify the form of the notice.

(f) When a motor vehicle is rented or leased in this state on a weekly or daily basis, there must be attached to the rental contract a separate form containing a written notice in at least 10-point bold type, if printed, or in capital letters, if typewritten, which states:

Under Minnesota law, a personal automobile insurance policy issued in Minnesota must cover the rental of this motor vehicle against damage to the vehicle and against loss of use of the vehicle. Therefore, purchase of any collision damage waiver or similar insurance affected in this rental contract is not necessary if your policy was issued in Minnesota.

No collision damage waiver or other insurance offered as part of or in conjunction with a rental of a motor vehicle may be sold unless the person renting the vehicle provides a written acknowledgment that the above consumer protection notice has been read and understood.

(g) When damage to a rent vehicle is covered by a plan of reparation security as provided under paragraph (a), the rental contract must state that payment by the reparation obligor within the time limits of section 72A.201 is acceptable, and prior payment by the renter is not required.

(h) To be compensated for the loss of use of a damaged rented motor vehicle, the car rental company must prove;

(1) that had the vehicle been available, it would have been rented; and

(2) that no other vehicle was available for rental in place of the damaged vehicle.

The standard of proof set forth in this paragraph does not limit the responsibility of a reparation obligor to provide an insured with coverage for any loss of use for which the reparation obligor is otherwise responsible. A car rental company may be compensated for loss of use of a damaged rental motor vehicle only for the period when the damaged car actually would have been rented.